

New Hampshire Strategic Watershed Action Teams Winter 2013 Success Stories

NH Fish and Game-

Is working with staff to develop a 1 day training for NRCS on key wildlife species. They are also developing new focal area maps for various species which will aid NRCS' conservation delivery. The training will focus on improving communications between our staffs and working to develop key restoration plans for Blanding's Turtle, Whip-Poor-Will, New England Cottontail, Bobcat, as well as improving habitat for game species such as Deer, Moose, and Turkey. Often overlooked, game species provide millions to NH's economy each year and several landowners are interested in improving habitat for game species which also have benefit to several declining species as well.



Above: NH Fish & Game lead New England Cottontail biologist Heidi Holman (center) works with staff and University of New Hampshire Graduate Student to help landowners know if their property is occupied by New England Cottontail. This work is key for landowners who want to manage thickets within priority landscapes.



Above: (before management) a potential New England Cottontail area, where the brush is not quite thick enough after NHFG evaluated the site for rabbits and they were not present, the landowner was able move forward with re-setting the successional state.



Above: (After management) this 13 acres of habitat is being transitioned from invasive plants to a native shrubland and , in 5 years time it will be prime New England cottontail habitat. The apple trees were “pruned” and they were covered with bittersweet before the management.

Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF)-

SPNHF Is monitoring easements on several large tracts of forestland across the state and in the last three months they have monitored over 2600 acres of protected forest land and discussed with the owners NRCS programs and opportunities to improve water quality and forest health.



Above: an area of beach and oak sprouts in a pine barren ecosystem about to be burned in Spring 2013.



Above: a skid-steer mounted mower grinds brush to reduce fuel loading before the burn, 33 acres were managed on this property using this method.



Above: a culvert in disrepair on a perennial stream which feeds directly into an exemplary tidal marsh.



Above: the culvert after removal and the stream reshaped and seeded.



Above: 3 months later the stream channel is stabilized by seeding, funding provided by NRCS for lands under ownership by SPNHF.

The Nature Conservancy-

TNC continues to work on developing relationships with landowners in key areas of the state including the Upper Connecticut River, the Great Bay Watershed and the Ossipee Mountains and Pine Barrens. TNC continues to protect key parcels, which result in opportunities for EQIP/WHIP/WRP and FRPP. Recently TNC has worked to develop some key contacts for the Working Lands for Wildlife Program which coincides with the Great Bay Protection Partnership.

